

SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON

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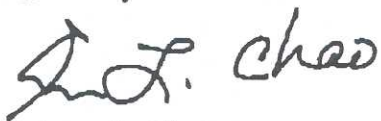
The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

Although the economy is showing some positive signs, we believe that a short extension of Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) benefits is needed to give many unemployed workers continued access to the necessities of life while they look for new jobs. As the 108th Congress convenes, we urge you to quickly pass an extension of the TEUC program retroactive to December 28, 2002. The only way for states to continue paying TEUC benefits without disruption is if a bill is presented to the President for signature no later than Thursday, January 9, 2003.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to have a member of your staff contact Mr. Anthony Bedell, Senior Legislative Officer, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, who will coordinate a departmental response. Mr. Bedell can be reached at (202) 693-4600.

Sincerely,



Elaine L. Chao